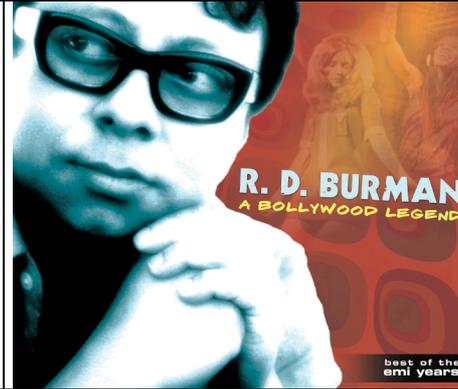


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| artist: R.D. Burman album: A Bollywood Legend label: beatScience/Saregama distr: rough trade (D) hoanzi (A) RecRec (CH) release: 19/01/2007 |  |
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Son of an established singer and composer, S. D. Burman, and husband of another Bollywood legend, **Asha Bhosle** – herself sister of perhaps India’s most famous singer, Lata Mangeshkar – **Rahul Dev Burman** had automatic entry to the celebrity aristocracy of his time. But he applied himself to his work with a passion so that, by the 70s, he reigned supreme and today it’s his musical wit, energy and a willingness to experiment – sometimes with surprising results - that separate him from his contemporaries.

These 2CDs include some of his biggest hits as well as a few rarities and were all originally released by one of the various incarnations of The Gramophone Company Of India, the country’s oldest record company. Taken together they tell the story of one of the nation’s most creative popular musicians.

- **2CDs that introduce one of Bollywood’s most renowned music producers**
- **today his work is regularly sampled, remixed or re-recorded by a diverse range of artists, from Bally Sagoo to the Kronos Quartet and more**
- **sensitively compiled and annotated by Bhagwant Sagoo - Hindi film-music expert and fan - to include a representative balance of hits and rarities**

Although assured a place in the Hindi film music ‘Hall of Fame’, perhaps it’s only now, as producers and re-mixers regularly raid his repertoire for ‘new’ material, that the true worth of R. D. Burman is being acknowledged.

In India, the musical scores for recent Hindi films such as ‘Dil Vil Pyar Vyar’ and ‘Jhankar Beats’ have included posthumous covers of **R. D. Burman’s** songs while around the world artists such as **Bally Sagoo**, **Najma Akhtar** and the **Kronos Quartet** in collaboration with R. D.’s widow **Asha Bhosle**, have ensured that his work is seldom out of the spotlight.

Popularly known as Pancham (the 5th note of the Indian musical scale is Pa), he was constantly in search for a sound that would move, inspire and enthuse the audience. From his first officially released musical assignment for film comedian Mehmood’s ‘Chhote Nawab’ (1961) to his final hurrah in Vidhu Vinod Chopra’s ‘1942 A Love Story’ (1994), R. D. Burman poured an extraordinary energy into all his projects.

The only son of celebrated singer and music director Sachin Dev Burman, Pancham was born on June 27th 1939 and from an early age began to ‘assist’ his father in the recording

studios, sometimes without due credit. For example his name does not appear in print on the album of S. D. Burman's 'Pyaasa' (1957), yet the senior Burman often referred to the comedic "Sar Jo Tera Chakraye, Ya Dil Dooba Jaaye" sung by Mohd. Rafi as having been composed by his son.

In fact there are examples of R. D. Burman's work to be found in many compositions as he also played the mouth organ in songs such as "Hai Apna Dil To Awaara" sung by Hemant Kumar in S. D. Burman's 'Solva Saal' (1958), and for others in Laxmikant Pyarelal's phenomenally popular score for 'Dosti' (1964).

By the time he had scored the music for his 5th assignment, Nasir Hussain's 'Teesri Manzil' (1966), where he encouraged the vocalists Asha Bhosle and Mohd. Rafi to sing in a rock and pop style, his presence was well and truly felt. He was now an independent music director, free from the shadow of his father and who was going to be around for the long haul. Veteran lyric writer Majrooh Sultanpuri established a rapport with the young composer and would continue to write songs for him in a long and successful career.

During the 1960s, R. D. Burman's output was steady if not prolific, but by 1970, a year in which he was credited with scoring the music for no less than seven films, he had become one of the most in-demand music directors. The early 70s were in the grip of the Rajesh Khanna wave; the film star had had a meteoric rise to a 'phenomenon' status and many of the superstar's films had R. D. Burman's music. These included 'Kati Patang' and 'The Train' (1970), 'Amar Prem' (1971), 'Apna Desh', 'Mere Jeevan Saathi' and 'Shehzada' (1972), 'Namak Haraam' (1973), and 'Aap Ki Kasam', 'Ajnabi' and 'Humshakal' (1974), as did his 1967 film 'Baharon Ke Sapne'.

Although 'Aradhana' (1969) was officially an S. D. Burman score, illness prevented him from fulfilling his duties and R. D. completed the music and was credited as associate composer. 'Aradhana's success assured actor Rajesh Khanna of super stardom and was also a turning point in the career of Kishore Kumar who replaced Mohd. Rafi as the industry's top singer.

R. D. Burman also carried on a Burman family tradition of composing for the films of evergreen hero Dev Anand, including 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' (1971), 'Yeh Gulistan Hamara' (1972), 'Heera Panna' and 'Joshila' (1973) and 'Ishq Ishq Ishq' (1974) among others.

Two artistes in particular; the singer and latterly his wife Asha Bhosle, and the lyricist and film-maker Gulzar, established a close bond with R. D. Burman. Their association heralded, in 1987, one of the most successful non-film albums titled 'Dil Padosi Hai' as well as the film 'Ijaazat' where R. D. Burman repeated his use of the twin-track effect he had introduced in the film 'Baharon Ke Sapne'.

The 1980s was a poor decade for many music directors and, with a few notable exceptions ('Kudrat' and 'Agar Tum Na Hote'), R. D. Burman was similarly afflicted. However, despite being fixed with a 'jinxed' tag, his output was still prodigious. These wilderness years continued for the composer right up until his death in 1994. Then, with considerable irony, his score for '1942 A Love Story', and particularly Kumar Sanu's rendition of "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha To Aisa Lagaa", was a huge hit, despite the film itself failing to attract an audience.

This album features only a fraction of the more than 1,800 songs R. D. is reputed to have written. However they give a striking picture of his energy and versatility, ranging from the classically oriented, to romance and to the experimental which today has found a new and appreciative audience.

During his life he was respected but certainly not universally admired, and he had numerous detractors who disliked his raiding of western tunes. Yet there are many examples where his vision of fusing different sounds give the song a unique identity, while at the same time respecting both western and eastern music cultures.

Yesterday, R. D. Burman was inspired by his peers, today a new generation is inspired by R. D. Burman. It may be true to say that he created sounds that were ahead of their time, and that it took time for these sounds to find their place. Whatever the reason, R. D. Burman continues to play a prominent role in musical tastes and trends long after his death.

Bhagwant Sagoo, Luton 2006

TRACKLISTING:

CD1:

1. Asha Bhosle & Chorus - Dum Maro Dum
(Take another toke)
2. Asha Bhosle - Mera Naam Hai Shabnam
(My name is Shabnam)
3. Asha Bhosle - Aaj Ki Raat Koi Aane Ko Hai
(There's someone coming, this night)
4. Asha Bhosle - Mera Kuchh Samaan
(Some of my things ...are in your possession)
5. Asha Bhosle & R. D. Burman - Duniya Mein Logon Ko
(Some people in this world are deceived)
6. Asha Bhosle & R. D. Burman - Piya Tuu Ab To Aaja
(Come to me at long last, my love)
7. Asha Bhosle & Bhupinder - Jab Andhera Hota Hai
(When it's dark)
8. Asha Bhosle - Rishte Bante Hain
(Relationships develop slowly)
9. Asha Bhosle & Mohd. Rafi - Chura Liya Hai Tumne
(You've stolen my heart)
10. Mohd. Rafi - Sar Jo Tera Chakraye
(If your head should spin)
11. Mohd. Rafi - Tumne Mujhe Dekha
(You looked at me)
12. Mohd. Rafi - Chand Mera Dil
(My heart is the moon...and you are the moonlight)
13. S. D. Burman - Doli Mein Bithaai Ke Kahar
(Sit her in the bridal palanquin)

CD1 time: 63:41

CD2:

1. Hemant Kumar - Hai Apna Dil To Aawara
(My vagabond heart)
2. Manna Dey - Aao Twist Karein
(Let's twist)
3. Manna Dey, Bhupinder, Maruti & Chorus - Yaaron Hamara Kya
(What of me, my friends?)
4. Lata Mangeshkar - Kya Janoon Sajjan
(What do I know, my love?)
5. Lata Mangeshkar & Kishore Kumar - Karvaten Badalte Rahein
(I tossed and turned all night)
6. Lata Mangeshkar - Tere Bina Jiya Jaaye Na
(I can't live without you)
7. Lata Mangeshkar & Bhupinder - Meethey Bol Bole
(The anklets speak sweet words)
8. Lata Mangeshkar & Kishore Kumar - Tere Bina Zindagi Se Koi
(No regrets of life without you)
9. Kishore Kumar - O Mere Dil Ke Chain
(My heart's solace)
10. Kishore Kumar - O Hansini
(Where are you flying off to, my swan?)
11. Kishore Kumar - Rhim Jhim Gire Saawan
(The falling raindrops)
12. Kishore Kumar - Hamein Tumse Pyar Kitna
(How much we love you...that we don't know)
13. Kumar Sanu - Ek Ladki Ko Dekha
(I saw a girl)

CD2 time: 66:56

R.D. Burman – A Bollywood Legend will be released in Germany, Switzerland and Austria on January 19, 2007 by beatScience / peacelounge recordings